

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

June 1, 2004

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The Honorable Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I wrote to you on May 18 urging you to go to Darfur and stand in solidarity with the persecuted people in that region of Sudan. I have yet to receive a response, so I write again today requesting that you go to Darfur.

The situation on the ground is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Urgent, immediate action is needed to prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. Your going to Darfur would call to the world's attention the ongoing slaughter. Precious time is slipping away.

Bold action is needed. We must do everything to exert continued pressure on the Government of Sudan and the international community to help the people of Darfur.

Your personal action is so important. Please act quickly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:ses

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

THANK YOU

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May 18, 2004

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The Honorable Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I am extremely concerned that the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, has not received the international attention or response that is needed to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. With the rainy season just weeks away, the window of opportunity is closing.

I commend you for speaking out about Darfur in April, but I am concerned that words have not turned in to action. The United Nations must do more to help the people of Darfur. The election of Sudan to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the resistance to take action in the Security Council cast doubt on the UN commitment to the protection of human rights and to the innocent people suffering in Darfur.

The United Nations should take a leadership role and stand with the innocent men and women who are being slaughtered in Darfur. I urge you to go to Darfur and stand in solidarity with the people.

The international community must act swiftly. Failure to act will bring certain death to the thousands languishing in camps. I fear that the world will wake up ten years from now and wonder why more was not done to protect humanity. The evidence is clear. We can not say that we did not know.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:ses

You going to Darfur call
make a positive difference
Thank you -



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House of Representatives

STOP THE KILLING IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 2, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Raphaél Lemkin in his book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe* coined the word "genocide." Greek word "genos" (race), Latin word "cide" (killing). Genocide means "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group."

It has been said the way we behave is really an indicator of what we truly believe, and belief drives behavior. It will be 59 years this April that Dietrich Bonhoeffer was marched from his prison cell at the Flossenburg concentration camp in Germany and was hung. Bonhoeffer was a Protestant minister who opposed Hitler. He refused to keep silent about the discrimination and persecution of Jews. He spoke out repeatedly and fearlessly until the Nazis executed him.

"Never again"—words that were uttered, beliefs that were expressed by many in the West after the full-scale horror of the Holocaust became known. And yet, genocide has happened again and again this century, while world leaders and governments have been slow or hesitant to respond.

This is the theme of the excellent book on genocide in the 20th century—*A Problem from Hell*, by Harvard University instructor Samantha Power. More than ever, Ms. Power's book reminds all of us, especially those in public service, of the unique power and responsibility of our voice in confronting evil and our moral responsibility to speak out.

Is genocide happening again? As the world waits and watches, the people of the Darfur region in Sudan are being wiped out. This crisis began in February 2003 when two rebel groups in Darfur state began to fight government security forces. In early February 2004, the government launched a major military offensive against the rebel forces. The result has been brutal attacks by ground and air forces against innocent civilians and undefended villages. Thousands have been killed. Millions more remain beyond the reach of aid.

The United Nations resident coordinator to Sudan recently described the situation in Darfur as the world's greatest humanitarian crisis and possibly its greatest humanitarian catastrophe. Richard S. Williamson, the U.S. representative to the Commission on Human Rights, said on March 25: "the U.S. views with grave concern the deepening crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan. A lack of civil order and the refusal of local as well as national authorities to permit unrestricted access for humanitarian workers have put as many as one million people at imminent risk of life and livelihood."

Below is the text of H. Con. Res. 403, a sense of Congress resolution I introduced April 1, condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its reported involvement in the attacks against innocent civilians and calls on the president to direct the United States representative to the United Nations to seek an official investigation by the UN to determine if crimes against humanity have been committed. I fear it is happening again and it is only going to get worse.

I urge the House to pass this resolution and go on the record to speak out against what is happening in Darfur.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 403

Whereas, since early 2003 a conflict between forces of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by Sudanese Government ground and air forces against innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region;

Whereas, Sudanese Government forces have also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region;

Whereas, United Nations officials and nongovernmental organizations have indicated that the humanitarian situation in the Darfur region is extremely urgent, particularly in light of restrictions by the Government of Sudan on the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the people of the region;

Whereas, on December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, declared that the Darfur region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe";

Whereas, on February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that the organization "continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers and pro-government militia";

Whereas, on February 18, 2004, United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan, Tom Eric Vraalsen, declared following a trip to the Darfur region that "aid workers are unable to reach the vast majority [of the displaced]";

Whereas, Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the scene of "catastrophic mortality rates"; and

Whereas, nearly 3,000,000 people affected by the conflict in the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach of aid agencies trying to provide essential humanitarian assistance and United Nations aid agencies estimate that they have been able to reach only 15 percent of people in need and that more than 700,000 people have been internally displaced in the past year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring: That Congress—

(1) strongly condemns the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan and demands that the Government of Sudan immediately cease these attacks;

(2) calls on the international community to strongly condemn the Government of Sudan for these attacks and to demand that they cease;

(3) urges the Government of Sudan to allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the people in the Darfur region; and

(4) urges the President to direct the United States representative to the United Nations to seek an official investigation by the United Nations to determine if crimes against humanity have been committed by the Government of Sudan in the Darfur region.